

**National Interagency Coordination Center  
Incident Management Situation Report  
Friday, August 20, 2010 – 0530 MDT  
National Preparedness Level 2**

**National Fire Activity**

Initial attack activity: Moderate (219 new fires)  
 New large fires: 4 (\*)  
 Large fires contained: 3  
 Uncontained large fires: \*\* 7  
 Area Command Teams committed: 0  
 NIMOs committed: 0  
 Type 1 IMTs committed: 0  
 Type 2 IMTs committed: 2

Nationally, there are 54 large fires being managed to achieve multiple objectives.

\*\* Uncontained large fires include only fires being managed under a full suppression strategy. \*\*

[Link](#) to Geographic Area daily reports.

Interagency personnel are assigned to a number of locations in the Gulf of Mexico to assess and mitigate impacts resulting from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

- Support to the Fish and Wildlife Service includes these areas: Bayou Sauvage NWR (LA), Big Branch Marsh NWR (LA), Breton NWR (LA), Delta NWR (LA), Shell Key NWR (LA), Bon Secour NWR (AL), Grand Bay NWR (AL), St. Vincent NWR (FL), and McFaddin NWR (TX).

- Support to the National Park Service includes these areas: Gulf Islands National Seashore (FL), Jean Lafitte Park and Preserve (LA), Everglades National Park (FL), Dry Tortugas (FL), Biscayne National Park (FL), De Soto National Memorial (FL) and Big Cypress National Preserve (FL).

BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	USFS
1	3	560	105	18

**Northwest Area (PL 2)**

New fires: 98  
 New large fires: 2  
 Uncontained large fires: 5  
 Type 2 IMTs committed: 2

**Oak Flat**, Rogue River – Siskiyou NF. IMT 2 (Fillis). Ten miles northwest of Selma, OR. Closed timber litter. Active fire behavior with group tree torching. Structures threatened.

\* **Lower Deschutes Complex** (four fires), Prineville District, BLM. IMT 2 (Rapp). Complex includes previously reported Fall Canyon and Devil’s Half Acre incidents. Five miles north of Maupin, OR. Juniper, brush and grass. Active fire behavior. Residences threatened. Evacuations in effect.

Incident Name	St	Unit	Size	Size Chge 24 Hrs	% Ctn	Est Ctn	Totl Pers	Pers Chge 24 Hrs	Crw	Eng	Heli	Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
Oak Flat	OR	RSF	1,500	250	18	UNK	1,110	60	34	30	8	0	4M	FS
* Lower Deschutes Complex	OR	PRD	4,900	---	25	UNK	276	---	11	10	0	0	242K	BLM
* FFTF	WA	HANN	1,265	---	100	---	104	---	0	29	0	0	NR	CNTY

HANN – Hanford FD

### Eastern Great Basin Area (PL 2)

New fires: 34  
 New large fires: 0  
 Uncontained large fires: 1

**Deer Park**, Sawtooth NF. Fifteen miles northwest of Fairfield, ID. Timber. Creeping and smoldering with isolated interior torching.

Incident Name	St	Unit	Size	Size Chge 24 Hrs	% Ctn	Est Ctn	Totl Pers	Pers Chge 24 Hrs	Crw	Eng	Heli	Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
Deer Park	ID	STF	1,043	31	80	8/23	119	-6	5	0	3	0	2.2M	FS

### Southern Area (PL 1)

New fires: 14  
 New large fires: 1  
 Uncontained large fires: 1

\* **Wildhorse**, Oklahoma DOF. Three miles south of Zeb, OK. Hardwood litter. No further information received.

Incident Name	St	Unit	Size	Size Chge 24 Hrs	% Ctn	Est Ctn	Totl Pers	Pers Chge 24 Hrs	Crw	Eng	Heli	Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
* Wildhorse	OK	OKS	350	---	75	8/20	0	---	0	0	0	0	6K	ST
Creek Complex	AR	OUF	343	0	100	---	1	-9	0	0	0	0	153K	FS

OUF – Ouachita NF

### Rocky Mountain Area (PL 2)

New fires: 5  
 New large fires: 1  
 Uncontained large fires: 0

Incident Name	St	Unit	Size	Size Chge 24 Hrs	% Ctn	Est Ctn	Totl Pers	Pers Chge 24 Hrs	Crw	Eng	Heli	Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
* Alkali	CO	MFX	7,917	---	100	---	14	---	0	4	0	0	10K	CNTY

MFX – Moffat County FD

**Alaska Area (PL 1)**

New fires: 1  
 New large fires: 0  
 Uncontained large fires: 0

**Pat Creek**, Upper Yukon Zone, BLM. Previously reported incident. Fifteen miles north of Stevens Village, AK.. Black spruce and tundra. Creeping with isolated torching. Last report unless significant activity occurs.

**Willow Creek**, Military Zone, BLM. Previously reported incident. Ten miles southwest of Fairbanks, AK. Spruce, hardwoods and grass. Minimal fire activity. Last report unless significant activity occurs.

**Three Sleep**, Upper Yukon Zone, BLM. Previously reported incident. Started on FWS land thirty miles east of Stevens Village, AK. Spruce and tundra. No further information received. Last report unless significant activity occurs.

Incident Name	St	Unit	Size	Size Chge 24 Hrs	% Ctn	Est Ctn	Totl Pers	Pers Chge 24 Hrs	Crw	Eng	Heli	Strc Lost	\$\$ CTD	Origin Own
Pat Creek	AK	UYD	45,796	2,348	N/A	N/A	101	-3	6	0	4	2	10.9	BLM
Willow Creek	AK	MID	13,766	---	N/A	N/A	2	---	0	0	1	0	423K	BLM
Three Sleep	AK	UYD	4,959	---	N/A	N/A	0	---	0	0	0	0	NR	FWS

**Predictive Services Discussion:** The West will be drier today as high pressure temporarily builds over the region. Thunderstorms today will be confined to Utah, Arizona and New Mexico.

[Link to Predictive Services Outlook products.](#)



Today's discussion is from  
"This Day in History"

"Lessons Learned" serve as brief summaries of powerful learning opportunities. You can use these summaries as a foundation and launch point for further dialogue and discussion. Apply these lessons learned to yourself, your crew, and your unit.

## The Great Fires of 1910 (The Big Blowup) - Commemorating 100 years - August 20th

**Incident Summary:** The 1910 fire season in the Northern Rockies was an unprecedented challenge to the US Forest Service. Record drought conditions had combined with an unusually strong lightning cycle and an abundance of man-caused fires. By July 15, there were over 3000 firefighters on the firelines in Region 1 of the Forest Service alone. On August 8, President Taft deployed numerous companies of the regular Army to northern Idaho and western Montana.

On August 20, an upper-level trough, centered in Saskatchewan, moved through the Northern Rockies between 1000 and 2100 hrs. This cold front passage brought a strong west/southwest wind that caused numerous fires to "blow-up" and join together to create large fire fronts that moved across the landscape. Fire crews across the Northern Rockies found themselves in danger of entrapment. Many were able to take refuge in previously burned areas, natural safety zones, and mine tunnels. Some were completely cut off, and by the end of the day, 85 persons - 78 of them firefighters - had lost their lives at 9 separate fatality sites.

*This day in wildland fire history is dedicated to all those at the Big Blowup.*

### Lessons Learned Discussion Points

The fire behavior on August 20 was influenced a great deal by the drought conditions.

- Discuss what a Fire Danger Pocket Card tells us (pg 71 IRPG) and where to get them.

Messengers were sent to some of the crews to warn them of the impending windstorm, but most of the crews received no warning.

- We often depend on our handheld radios to receive critical weather updates. What backup systems / technologies can be used if our radios don't work?

On the West Fork Big Creek fire, a 60 person crew was instructed by their supervisor to choose between two safety zones, the black from the previous burning period or the creek bottom below. 19 firefighters chose to take shelter in a nearby homesteader's cabin which ignited as the flame front passed. 18 of them perished rushing outside. The one survivor tripped at the door and fell to the ground.

- What is your agency's policy on taking refuge in a structure? What considerations would you take into account?

The 18 firefighters on the Stevens Peak fire burned out a safety zone in light fuels. One firefighter perished when he breathed in super-heated air.

- Discuss the importance of protecting your airway in entrapment situations, and methods of doing so.



When the 70 firefighters working on the Setser Creek fire were instructed by their supervisor to proceed downstream to a safety zone, 27 of them disregarded the order and chose instead to follow the instructions of the Camp Cook who insisted there was no danger. All 28 lost their lives.

- What tools are used by your crew/unit to improve crew cohesion in times of stress?

On the Middle Fork Big Creek fire, one crew had retreated to a two-acre clearing with a stream running through it. Most of the firefighters who sought refuge in the stream survived. Three firefighters, however, were killed when a large tree fell on them.

- What factors influence the selection of a good safety zone? (pg 7 IRPG)

On the Storm Creek fire, the crew supervisor had led his 70 person crew to a safety zone consisting of black from the previous day's burn. This safety zone proved to be a good one, as the crew safely watched the fire burn around them. One firefighter left the protection of the safety zone and was found dead the next day.

- How do you and your crew provide for firefighter accountability?

After the Big Blowup, there were 116 injured firefighters. Some received their initial care from Army field surgeons. Others, including famous Ranger Ed Pulaski, were left with long-term disabilities.

- What are the burn-injury protocols on your unit?

### Fires and Acres Yesterday

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES			0		1		1
	ACRES			3,363		4,500		7,863
Northwest	FIRES	3	2			4	89	98
	ACRES	1,600	3,800			6	47	5,453
Northern California	FIRES				1	12	4	17
	ACRES				1	28	2	31
Southern California	FIRES		9		0	11	4	24
	ACRES		0		559	105	6	670
Northern Rockies	FIRES				1	4	6	11
	ACRES				75	1	8	84
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES		13		1	13	7	34
	ACRES		651		0	137	14	802
Western Great Basin	FIRES		5					5
	ACRES		20					20
Southwest	FIRES		1			2	2	5
	ACRES		2			0	16	18
Rocky Mountain	FIRES		2			3	0	5
	ACRES		0			600	280	880
Eastern Area	FIRES					5		5
	ACRES					8		8
Southern Area	FIRES			1		12	1	14
	ACRES			55		53	29	137
TOTAL	FIRES	3	32	1	3	67	113	219
	ACRES	1,600	4,473	3,418	635	5,438	402	15,966

### Fires and Acres Year-to-Date

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES	1	74	66	53	427	15	636
	ACRES	103	292,748	119,596	110,724	545,527	9	1,068,707
Northwest	FIRES	143	174	10	20	335	950	1,632
	ACRES	3,283	17,357	3,354	4,004	30,692	1,099	59,789
Northern California	FIRES	51	122		12	1,478	384	2,047
	ACRES	47	12,222		8	13,997	2,230	28,504
Southern California	FIRES	17	148	3	22	1,833	330	2,353
	ACRES	186	10,040	14	2,618	22,413	18,151	53,422
Northern Rockies	FIRES	418	50	6	11	283	452	1,220
	ACRES	2,623	1,883	1,362	595	2,041	4,574	13,078
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES	39	453	2	20	439	379	1,332
	ACRES	13,155	116,488	1	94	115,852	13,926	259,516
Western Great Basin	FIRES	2	183	9	15	56	42	307
	ACRES	0	16,311	35	5	3,147	970	20,468
Southwest	FIRES	508	189	7	60	404	877	2,045
	ACRES	7,444	18,499	35	24,504	38,221	72,707	161,410
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	496	374	6	30	352	337	1,595
	ACRES	2,793	4,413	3,064	7,212	29,240	4,725	51,447
Eastern Area	FIRES	636		39	20	12,008	501	13,204
	ACRES	2,709		4,883	27	86,495	4,336	98,450
Southern Area	FIRES	514		52	24	16,591	500	17,681
	ACRES	32,279		6,145	224	217,069	21,276	276,993
TOTAL	FIRES	2,825	1,767	200	287	34,206	4,767	44,052
	ACRES	64,622	489,961	138,489	150,015	1,104,694	144,003	2,091,784

<b>Ten Year Average Fires</b>	<b>56,792</b>
<b>Ten Year Average Acres</b>	<b>4,874,169</b>

\*\*\* Changes in some agency YTD acres reflect more accurate mapping or reporting adjustments. \*\*\*

**Prescribed Fires and Acres Yesterday**

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northwest	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northern California	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southern California	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Northern Rockies	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Western Great Basin	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Southwest	FIRES		0		0		0	0
	ACRES		5		5		28	38
Rocky Mountain	FIRES							0
	ACRES							0
Eastern Area	FIRES				1		2	3
	ACRES				1		16	17
Southern Area	FIRES	1						1
	ACRES	155						155
TOTAL	FIRES	1	0	0	1	0	2	4
	ACRES	155	5	0	6	0	44	210

### Prescribed Fires and Acres Year-to-Date

AREA		BIA	BLM	FWS	NPS	ST/OT	USFS	TOTAL
Alaska	FIRES					11		11
	ACRES					21,497		21,497
Northwest	FIRES	12	55	6	1		152	226
	ACRES	6,781	8,616	1,648	11		17,529	34,585
Northern California	FIRES	1	12	24	19	29	229	314
	ACRES	10	771	22,275	34	4,042	9,397	36,529
Southern California	FIRES		9	10	7	18	63	107
	ACRES		1,612	1,493	547	2,459	1,969	8,080
Northern Rockies	FIRES	99	33	107	8	29	145	421
	ACRES	3,990	4,674	25,961	1,240	934	16,007	52,806
Eastern Great Basin	FIRES		18	6	7	29	40	100
	ACRES		4,110	2,745	520	2,288	10,198	19,861
Western Great Basin	FIRES		3	2	2		7	14
	ACRES		68	1,395	546		638	2,647
Southwest	FIRES	30	20	10	9		122	191
	ACRES	2,181	22,553	8,870	1,108		64,011	98,723
Rocky Mountain	FIRES	41	46	118	26	47	136	414
	ACRES	5,861	5,708	26,858	5,019	6,215	19,554	69,215
Eastern Area	FIRES	47		368	31	1,536	180	2,162
	ACRES	62,783		55,431	5,518	92,534	58,977	275,243
Southern Area	FIRES	18		192	69	8,834	1,076	10,189
	ACRES	3,060		87,408	72,148	281,138	1,034,414	1,478,168
TOTAL	FIRES	248	196	843	179	10,533	2,150	14,149
	ACRES	84,666	48,112	234,084	86,691	411,107	1,232,694	2,097,354

\*\*\* Changes in some agency YTD acres reflect more accurate mapping or reporting adjustments. \*\*\*

Additional wildfire information is available through the Geographic Areas at <http://gacc.nifc.gov/>.

### Canada Fires and Hectares

Provinces	Fires Yesterday	Hectares Yesterday	Fires Year-To-Date	Hectares Year-To-Date
British Columbia	18	5,117	1,479	205,105
Yukon Territory	2	52	86	155,862
Alberta	0	19,085	1,680	88,157
Northwest Territory	5	9,682	219	320,016
Saskatchewan	2	-17,014	565	1,743,607
Manitoba	0	1	562	149,835
Ontario	7	1	866	14,805
Quebec	1	-1	672	361,454
Newfoundland	0	0	40	806
New Brunswick	2	4	146	146
Nova Scotia	2	-1	283	460
Prince Edward Island	0	0	2	5
National Parks	0	0	100	5,959
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>16,925</b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>3,046,217</b>

**\*\* National Interagency Coordination Center \*\***